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Pair of Monroe County workers stop swerving school bus

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ERIE TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Two quick-thinking Monroe County road workers stopped a school bus that was swerving as its driver suffered a medical emergency.

Aaron Pierce of Monroe and Ken Lambert of Lambertville had just finished patching a road Wednesday when they jumped onto the moving bus, which was carrying 31 elementary students, The Monroe Evening News reported.

"We noticed the bus going kind of slow," Lambert said.

They had heard on Lambert's emergency radio that a bus driver had gone into diabetic shock, and spotted the slowly swerving bus — moving about 5 to 10 mph — near Monroe.

Pierce hoisted himself through a window to steer the Monroe Public Schools bus to a stop.

"There was lots of screaming, lots of crying," he said. "One little girl asked me, 'Are we going to die?' I had to hug her. She was crying her eyes out."

Lambert entered through the emergency exit.

"I went to the back door. Luckily it was an older-model bus and I could open the exit door," Lambert said. "It was chaos. The kids were yelling and crying."

Lambert, who is a volunteer firefighter, led the children off the bus and tended to the driver.

The students weren't injured, but were shaken up.

"This could have ended worse than it did," said Nicole Carter, who had two children on the bus.

Pierce says he's not a hero — he was just doing his civic duty.

"There was no way I wasn't going to get onto the bus," he said.

Information from: The Monroe Evening News, <http://www.monroenews.com>

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Bay City Central students take control after bus driver becomes ill

By Amy L. Payne

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ecca Craig | Times PhotoFrom left: Bay City Central High School students Marques Rangel, Grant Walker, Britney Matthews, Alex Dewitt, Katlyn Scovill and Royale Hampton (not pictured) brought their bus to a safe stop after the bus driver passed out.

Six students at Bay City Central High School are enjoying a well-deserved moment in the spotlight after stopping an erratic bus on Monday when the man driving it suddenly became ill.

The students were being driven from Central to the Bay-Arenac Career Center at about 8 a.m. when the bus began to veer all over the road and went over a curb near the intersection of McKinley Avenue and Monroe Street.

Katlyn Scovill, a junior, was sitting in the front row of the bus when the driver - while still driving - turned around and asked if anyone had any candy. Scovill said she gave him some Starburst, but he didn't eat them and continued driving. So Scovill took over.

"I stood up, stuck my leg under his leg and stepped on the brake," Scovill said. That's when the bus driver, who the district would not name due to privacy laws, passed out and fell over in his seat.

While leaning against him to prevent him from falling out of his seat, Scovill grabbed the gear shift and tried to put the bus in 'park.' But bus gears are different than those in cars and what she thought was 'park' was actually 'reverse.' But she kept her foot on the brake.

Alex Dewitt, a senior, stepped forward and put the bus in neutral to prevent it from rolling backwards.

"At that point everybody was freaking out," Dewitt said.

Another student, junior Grant Walker, jumped up from his seat to help out, eventually figuring out how to set the emergency brake.

Marques Rangel, a junior, called 911 and then came to the front of the bus to help with the driver, who woke up.

"When he woke up it kind of scared me because his eyes popped open," Rangel said. "The dispatcher told me not to let him start the bus up."

Several students tried to open the doors and let students off the bus, but the doors

jammed up.

That's when Britney Matthews, also a junior, sprang into action, guiding students toward the rear doors of the bus.

"I said, 'You guys use the emergency exit. That's what it's for,'" Matthews said. "I'm kind of demanding."

Royale Hampton, a senior who is in the nursing program at the Career Center, was also at the bus driver's side, checking his pulse and keeping an eye on his breathing. By the time the ambulance arrived, the bus driver was awake and wondering what was going on. The students gladly exited the bus to let EMS personnel do their jobs. Once outside, reality set in.

"As soon as I got off the bus it was like, 'Whoa, what happened?'" Walker said.

"I was shaking like crazy," Scovill said. "I thought I was going to fall over."

Though most of them have been trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, they were very glad they didn't actually have to use it.

"A cut finger, that's about it," Dewitt said of his experience in giving first aid. "Everybody was yelling, 'Give him CPR' and I was like, 'No!'"

And while they are being lauded throughout the district, the students themselves do not see anything special about what they did.

"I don't see it as heroism," Walker said.

"It was just something that had to be done," Matthews said.

As for Scovill, her family thinks she may have a line on a part-time job.

"My dad asked me if I got a substitute bus driver application."